



ANDRA FREET & JENNIFER BOYESON DAVIS

CREATIVITY AND CONNECTION IN SEATTLE THROUGH CRAFT COCKTAIL

By Tia Nicklason

Photos by Brittany Freet

Seattle is a city that thrives on innovation and community spirit. The region is known for its lush landscapes, access to the outdoors, and a vibrant arts scene. In this city where creativity flourishes, two Seattle natives, Jennifer Boyeson Davis and Andra Freet, are blending their passions for design, craft, and cocktails to create something truly unique. They've brought a breath of fresh air to the local social scene with their business, Craft Cocktail.

Craft Cocktail is an event-based venture that combines hands-on crafting with the art of cocktail making, providing a fun and immersive experience for participants. Whether it's making beaded earrings or creating custom leather wallets, the goal of Craft Cocktail is simple: bring people together, allow them to create something beautiful, and enjoy a few well-curated drinks along the way.



In a recent interview, Jennifer and Andra shared how Craft Cocktail was born, their inspirations, and what it means to them to run a business in the heart of Seattle.

Like many small business ideas, Craft Cocktail was born out of a desire for connection, creativity, and a response to the pandemic's isolating effects. Both Jennifer and Andra, long-time friends and professional collaborators, found themselves seeking more ways to engage their hands and minds during the pandemic.

"We've always enjoyed dabbling in crafts, just as a way to relieve stress and anxiety," Andra explained. "During the pandemic, we were both freelance, working solitary jobs, and feeling more isolated than ever. So we started talking about how much we missed the opportunities to get together with friends and create something. That's when the idea for Craft Cocktail really started to take shape."

The concept was simple but powerful: Create a space where people could come together, learn a new skill, make something meaningful, and have a good time doing it. It wasn't just about crafting or cocktails alone but about fostering a sense of community, creativity, and purpose.

"We realized how important it was for women, particularly those of us sandwiched between taking care of kids and aging parents, to have a space where we can just connect and focus on ourselves for a few hours," Jennifer added. "It's about creating something that you're proud of and that you'd want to keep—not something you'll just toss to Goodwill the next week."

One of the unique aspects of Craft Cocktail is its flexibility. Rather than having a permanent studio space, Jennifer and Andra have embraced the pop-up model. They partner with local venues across Seattle to host events, creating a different experience each time.

"We've held events at places like Studio Life in the U-District and on the Eastside, and we're always open to new collaborations," Jennifer explained. "We love supporting other local businesses, whether it's renting out their space or highlighting their offerings. It's about community as much as it is about crafting."

Craft Cocktail also caters to private events, including corporate functions and private parties. From the Seattle Yacht Club to the Hyatt, their clients span a wide range of industries and backgrounds. For those who prefer a more intimate gathering, Craft Cocktail can also bring the experience to private homes.



Another point of pride for Jennifer and Andra is ensuring their events are inclusive. They've noticed a growing demand for mocktail options and have made it a priority to provide these at their events.

"We recognize that not everyone drinks, and we want to make sure that everyone feels welcome," Andra said. "We're even considering hosting events that focus exclusively on mocktails in the future."

Each Craft Cocktail event is meticulously curated to provide an enriching experience, with the crafts and cocktails often following a central theme. Whether it's autumn wreaths paired with pumpkin margaritas or paper flowers paired with a cocktails containing floral notes, every element is thoughtfully chosen to complement the other.

"We put a lot of thought into the cocktails to make sure they reflect the theme of the night's craft," Andra said. "For example, if we're working on something colorful and vibrant, we'll try to incorporate a cocktail that's equally lively, with layers of color or flavor. It's about elevating the whole experience."

Participants are encouraged to get hands-on with both the crafting and cocktail-making aspects of the event. Upon arrival, guests are greeted with cocktail stations where they can mix their own drinks, following step-by-step instructions. For those new to cocktail making, there's no need to worry—Jennifer and Andra are there to guide participants through the process.

"We want the experience to be as interactive as possible," Jennifer said. "We've had people come in who have never used



a cocktail shaker before, and by the end of the night, they're confidently mixing their own drinks. It's really cool to see people step out of their comfort zones and try something new."

Once the cocktails are made, guests can settle into their craft stations, which are outfitted with all the necessary tools and materials. Whether it's working with alcohol inks for marbled coasters or stitching leather for wallets, participants are guided through each step of the process, with plenty of room for customization and creativity.

"What's really fun is seeing how each person interprets the craft in their own way," Andra said. "You can give the same instructions to 25 people, and no two projects will look exactly the same. It's such a joy to see everyone's unique creativity come to life."

Beyond the immediate fun of crafting and cocktails, Jennifer and Andra are deeply committed to promoting the mental health benefits of hands-on activities. Studies have shown that engaging in crafts can reduce anxiety, improve focus, and enhance overall well-being—something that resonates strongly with the Craft Cocktail founders.

"There was a study out of the UK that found craft work can help boost mental health," Jennifer noted. "In a time where mental health is such a huge issue, we see Craft Cocktail as a way to help people unwind, relax, and connect with others."

Andra echoed these sentiments, reflecting on her own need for community and creativity. "For me, this business was born out of a need for connection. Working in isolation for years, I really missed the collaboration and energy that comes from creating with others. It's amazing how energizing it is to make something with your hands while chatting with new people. It's a completely different experience from creating alone."

Both Jennifer and Andra are Seattle natives, with deep roots in the Pacific Northwest. They've built their lives, families,

and careers in this area, and their pride in the city is evident in everything they do.

"I was born in North Seattle and haven't strayed far," Andra shared. "There's just something about this place—whether it's the mountains, the water, or the vibrant arts scene—it is home. I love the access to so many things, from snowboarding to paddleboarding to discovering new parks."

Jennifer, too, finds Seattle's creativity and community spirit to be one of the region's greatest strengths. "There's such a strong sense of creativity and generosity here. We have so many philanthropic people and innovative startups, but there's also a real care for the community. It's a wonderful place to raise a family and build a business."

As Craft Cocktail celebrates its first anniversary, Jennifer and Andra are excited about what the future holds. With plans to expand their offerings, explore new partnerships with local distilleries and breweries, and continue fostering a sense of community through crafting, the possibilities are endless.

"We've grown organically in our first year, and we're really looking forward to what's next," Jennifer said. "Our goal is to continue creating spaces where people can connect, learn, and have fun. That's what Craft Cocktail is all about."

For those interested in joining the fun, Craft Cocktail offers a monthly newsletter and regularly updates their social media with upcoming events and craft ideas. Whether you're looking for a girls' night out, a unique date night, or a corporate team-building event, Craft Cocktail has something for everyone.

In a city as creative and community-driven as Seattle, Craft Cocktail is the perfect blend of connection, craft, and celebration. Cheers!

Find out more at craftcocktail.art or Instagram: [craftcocktailer](https://www.instagram.com/craftcocktailer), Facebook: [craftcocktailart](https://www.facebook.com/craftcocktailart)